Howland Wood - Curatorial

Deacon, James Hunt

[Numismatic Section

1926-1927

Art Gallery, Adelaide

South Australia]

c/o Numismatic Section,
Art Gallery, Adelaide.
South Australia.
Oct.,18th,1926.

Mr., Howland Wood,
Curator,American Numismatic Society,
Broadwat at 156th.,street,
New York City, U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Your name was supplied to me by Mr., Frank. G. Duffield, (of "The Numismatist") in request for the name and address of one to whom I could submit some enquiries re., American coins and medals.

The chief of the enquiries, enclosed, are those which have arisen from my work in connection with the Numismatic Collection of this State, and of which I could find no reference to in our limited library on American Numismatics.

I should be pleased therefore to receive your answers to my queries, and in return offer to supply particulars re., Australian Numismatics I am able to give

Thanking you, in anticipation,
I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

James Hunt Deacon

J. Hunt Deacon,Esq.,F.R.N.S.
" Wotton-under-Edge "
Bulls Creek Road,
Torrens Park,
Adelaide, South Australia.

ENQUIRES RE., AMERICAN COINS & MEDALS etc.,

1. INDENIFICATION.
Copper. 19/32of an inch, diam., Weight, 25grains.

O: SOUVENIR / SOUTHERN / / EXPOSITION / 1883 in five lines.
R: View of the Exhibition Buildings, mountains in the dist/ance. Above LOUISVILLE / KY in two lines, Below, C.E.D.
E: Plain.

(The C.E.D. apparently is the die-sinkers' or engravers' initals. Is his name known ?).

2. INDENIFICATION.
Brass. 15/32 of an inch in diam. Weight 5 grains.
O: Head of Liberty to left, around which eight stars.
R: P.B. within a wreath, around which LATEST YANKEE NOVELTY.
(I take this to be a specimen of a novelty check, but cannot make out what the P.B. might stand for?)

3. INDENTIFICATION.
Large Cent of U.S.A., dated 1839, countermarked of O: SPRINGFIELD.

N
4. INDETIFICATION.
Copper 36/32 of an inch in diam. Weight 197 grains.
O: In the centre, on a field, azure, a shield on which a rampart horse to left, hind feet on ground. Above, STUTTGART. Below, 4 JULY 1885.
R: In centre an American Eagle, bearing the shield of Arms of the United States of America on breast, head turned to left, sprig of leaves in right claw, a bunch of arrows in left claw. Above, thirteen six-pointed stars. Below, JULY 4 1776.
E: Plain.
Suspension loop,
Riband. Red, white and blue.

(I take it that this is a commemoration medal of the 4 of July, issued at a place called Stuttgart, in America.

Germany

5. INDENTIFICATION.
On a medal commemorating the dedication of the Oddfellows Temple, Philadelphia (dated 1895) there appears the signature W. Is it known who this signature represents?

6. Who was the designer of the American issues of coins after 1917 ?

7. Has J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., of 36 John Street, New York City, Numismatic Dealer given up business ? If so, who has succeeded him ?. Are there any dealers in American who publish illustrated catalogues similar to those issued by Scott. If so, please give name and address ?

THANKING YOU IN ANTICIPATION.

Cents. Victor D. Brenner
5 Cents James Earle Fraser
10 Cents A. A Weinman.
25. Hermon A MacNeil
50 A A Weinman
$1 Liberty A. de Francisci
$2½ and $5 gold Bela L Pratt
10 + 20 " Augustus St Gaudens.

December 1, 1926

J. Hunt Deacon, Esq., F.R.N.S.,
'Wotten-under-Edge',
Bulls Creek Road,
Torrens Park, Adelaide, S.Australia

Dear Sir:

I am very sorry that I can not help you out in all of the questions that you ask. We have not made any great study of initials found on many of the American medals and coins, as the die-work on these has really not warranted the trouble and bother necessary. This is really a poor excuse but it is a statement of fact. I can not help you out, therefore, on the C E D on your question No. 1. The 'P.B.' is probably some name like Peck Brothers. There are countless small advertising cards, some for slot machines, others sometimes attached to the article being sold, issued in this country, where the name or the location is not on the face. No one has bothered with them. There are apparently no collectors of these indefinite pieces and but few collectors of those with names and locations, except in what is known as the Civil War series and two or three series issued earlier.

3. Many of our large cents are found with initials punched in them, but where they relate to the United States proper none of them has any significance that we have been able to learn. At any rate, the value of the piece was not changed. Certain pieces with such letters in indents apply to the West Indies and have significance. We have never bothered to save any of the pieces apparently stamped with initials, etc., made in this country.

4. This I feel certain is a little souvenie, made for some Fourth of July celebration by the American colony at Stuttgart, Germany. I do not find a Stuttgart listed in this country, and the arms on this piece are those of the German Stuttgart.

5. I can not help you out with the W on the Philadelphia piece, about which you ask in question No. 5.

6. Coins issued since 1917 are by the following engravers:

Cents	Victor D. Brenner
5 cents	James Earle Fraser
10 cents	A. A. Weinman
25 cents	Herman A. MacNeil
50 cents	A. A. Weinman
Dollar(silver)	A. de Francisci
2½ and 5-dollar (gold)	Bela L. Pratt
10 and 20-dollar (gold)	Augustus St. Gaudens

7. The J. W. Scott Company is now out of business. J.W.Scott died a few years ago and his son is a stamp auctioneer. If you are desirous of getting the Scott catalogue of silver and copper coins, the last edition being somewhere around 1912, I would advise you to write to Mr. Rudolph Kohler, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City, U.S.A., or to one of the American dealers on the list I am enclosing. There has been no really good general catalogue put out since the Scott catalogue. Guttag Brothers (16, Exchange Place, New York City) have issued a few books, none of which are very comprehensive, except a check list for dates and numbers issued of United States coins.

Yours very truly,

Curator

Numismatic Section,
Art Gallery, Adelaide.
South Australia.
15/1/27.

Howland Wood, Esq.,
Curator.
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets.
New York. U. S. A.

Dear Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the date, Dec 1st., and to thank you for information you sent.

I appreciate the trouble you have gone to, in the answering of my questions, and while you were unable to supply the information required on the checks, for which you gave reasons; I am gratefully for the remaining answers.

Commenting upon the Questions No. 1 & 2. Many, practically all except speciallists, coin-collectors in Australia include these Checks, Passes, Souvenirs etc in their collections, perhas to an overdone degree. The specimens referred to in my questions are in the South Australian National Collection. Likewise regarding my question No. 3. the countermarked large Cent. With these countermarks it is a hard thing to determine whether the countermark has been made in a legitimate numismatic way or are the folly piece of some person with a die punch. It was because of this that I include this in my list of enquiries. Perhaps the word SPRINGFIELD has some significance to the town of Springfield? I will write to the Coin Club there and see whether they have any information to offer.

Referring to the STUTTGART piece. I was under the impression that this was an American piece. There is a Stuttgart in America in Arkansas. Latitude 34.29 N. Longitude 91.32 W. The question that arose in my mind was to whether this town held any celebration on the 4 of July 1885, and issued this piece.?.

Regarding No. 5. The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society (Philadelphia) may be able to assist. I will write to them.

Many thanks for the list of engravers of the American coins as requested, also the list of dealers and the information re., Scott's Catalogues.

If you acknowledge this letter, I should be pleased to know whether the American Numismatic Society has any of the Australian silver and bronze coins in their collection. If not, I would be please to send along some.

Thanking you again for the trouble you have been to and assuring you of my willingness to assist you, at any time,

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

James Hunt Deacon

J. Hunt Deacon, F.R.N.S.

STUTTGART
4. JULY 1895

JULY 4. 1776

Numismatic Section, Art Gallery,
Adelaide, South Australia.
May 1927.

Mr., Howland Wood.
Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th., and 156th., Streets.
New York, U. S. A.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in making a small gift to the American Numismatic Society of two specimens of the 1927 Commemorative Florin of Australia, struck to commemorate the opening of the Federal Parliament House at Canberra (the Federal Capital City) by H.R.H. The Duke of York on May., 9th., 1927.

You will see by the stamp on the envelope that a special issue of stamps were made at the same time to corremorate the same occasion.

I trust the specimens will be acceptable.

Yours faithfully,

James Hunt Deacon

J. Hunt Deacon, Esq., F.R.N.S.

Acknowledged
S P N.
July, 1927

July 1st, 1927

James Hunt Deacon, Esq.,
Numismatic Section, Art Gallery,
Adelaide, South Australia

Dear Sir:

In behalf of the American Numismatic Society, I beg to acknowledge with appreciative thanks your gift to our cabinet of two specimens of the 1927 Commemorative Florin of Australia. We appreciate your thought for our Museum and should you at any time be in this city, I trust you will give us the pleasure of thanking you in person.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SPN:MB

Numismatic Section, Art Gallery,
Adelaide, South Australia.
Aug.,12th.,1927.

Sydney P. Noe.
Secretary,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, New York. N.Y.
U. S. A.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 1st., in which you acknowledge the receipt of the Commemorative (Canberra) Florins) which I sent.

If your Society's Collection is lacking in any coins of the Australian Commonwealth silver and bronze, please inform me and I will endeavour to send you along some specimens,

Yours faithfully,

James Hunt Deacon

J. Hunt Deacon, Esq.,F.R.N.S.

October 22, 1927

J. Hunt Deacon, Esq.,
Numismatic Section, Art Gallery,
Adelaide, South Australia

Dear Sir:

In answer to your inquiry of August 12th, concerning Australian Commonwealth coins that we lack, I am herewith enclosing a list of those pieces in our collection. I do not think it necessary that we have a complete line of dates, but simply a type collection, showing varieties and changes.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB